LONG ISLAND BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
COLD SPRING HARBOR, LONG ISLAND

THE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

January 26, 1951

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
The University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Lederberg:

I am very glad that you will participate in the forthcoming symposium; and I particularly wish to thank you for your suggestions and comments regarding the program. Most of the questions you raise have received consideration and thought by the group helping with the plans.

We realized that work with microorganisms was being given considerable emphasis, perhaps greater than it warrants; but, on the other hand, at present this is the most active field of genetical research, and it would be difficult to cover the major problems connected with genes and mutations without drawing on the results of such work. The situation now is similar to that of fifteen or twenty years ago, when Drosophila research touched on all the major problems of genetics. If you glance through the Symposium of ten years ago you will note that fifty percent of the biological papers dealt with Drosophila.

L'Heritier's name is on our list; and if we have room on the program and money to pay his expenses we will try to get him here. I agree with you that the majority of American geneticists know Ephrussi and might prefer the opportunity of meeting L'Heritier, but any discussion of cytoplasmic heredity would be incomplete without Ephrussi.

According to our latest information, Newcombe has not been doing any work on phenotypic delay since he published the data he had on the problem. Material that we have accumulated as a by-product of research on various other problems indicates that Newcombe's interpretation was far from right. The whole problem of phenotypic delay is very involved, and a great deal more work needs to be done before it would be wise to put much emphasis on it. I hope that both Newcombe and Davis will attend the symposium, where they will have plenty of opportunity to discuss their views.

The reason we invited Bisset to talk about cytology of bacteria is that he has a great many ideas which it would be well to discuss.

We would like to bring as many geneticists from Europe as we can with the limited funds at our disposal. Of course we are also anxious to give help to American geneticists who would not be able to attend the meeting otherwise. However, our experience in the past has been that the majority of American workers are able to get funds for travel from their universities or from grants they may have. I think that the University of Wisconsin has such funds available, and you might wish to try that source.

Enclosed is a copy of a Notice to Participants, containing information about the preparation of manuscripts.* Past experience indicates that it is advisable to plan for presentations lasting about 45 minutes, and not longer than 60 minutes at most. There is considerable latitude about the length of manuscripts for publication in the volume. The average length is 10 printed pages, and individual papers vary from 3 to 30 printed pages. Manuscripts are due here by June 1.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

M. Demerec

MD:af
Enclosure

*This notice is being revised and retyped. A copy will be sent to you next week.

XVIth COLD SPRING HARBOR SYMPOSIUM

Genes and Mutations

June 8-15, 1951

Tentative Program

I. Gene Concept

Muller (Indiana): Evolution of gene concept; historical sketch.
Wright (Chicago): Theory of the gene.
McClintock (Cold Spring Harbor); Stadler (Missouri)

II. Cytoplasmic Constituents of Heredity

Sonneborn (?) (Indiana); Ephrussi (Paris); Michaelis (Germany); Hutner (Haskins Laboratories, N.Y.C.)

III. Evolution of the Gene

Lewis (Pasadena); Bonner (Yale); Dunn (Columbia U.); Stephens (Raleigh, N.C.); Mather (England); Horowitz (Pasadena)

IV. Induction of Changes in Genes and Chromosomes

Auerbach (Edinburgh); Westergaard (Copenhagen); Demerec (C.S.H.); Levan (Lund); Giles (Yale); Gustafsson (Stockholm)

V. Genetic Mechanisms in Bacteria and Bacterial Viruses

Bisset (England): Cytology of bacteria.
Witkin (C.S.H.): Bacterial nucleus as carrier of genetic determinants.
Lederberg (Wisconsin); Szilard-Novick (Chicago); Atwood (Columbia U.); Hershey (C.S.H.); Luria (Illinois)

VI. Conclusions and Perspectives

Sonneborn (?); Mirsky (Rockefeller Inst.)